

Royal Institution of Great Britain.

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LETTERS

FROM

HONORARY MEMBERS

ELECTED IN COMMEMORATION OF THE

FARADAY CENTENARY.

JUNE 1891.

THE following letters have been received by the Honorary Secretary (Sir Frederick Bramwell, Bart.) from the Honorary Members of the Royal Institution who were elected on May 4, 1891, in commemoration of the Centenary of the Birth of Michael Faraday (born 22nd September, 1791).

Paris, 18 Mai 1891.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai reçu l'invitation que vous voulez bien m'adresser à assister au Centenaire de Faraday et l'annonce de mon élection comme membre honoraire de l'Institution Royale. Je vous prie de remercier le Conseil de l'honneur qu'il me fait. Je serais très heureux d'entendre les lectures de Lord Rayleigh et du Professeur Dewar, et très désireux de concourir à rendre hommage à la mémoire de l'illustre Faraday. Je l'ai connu à Londres, lorsqu'il a bien voulu assister à une lecture que j'y ai donnée, il y a un quart de siècle, à "Royal Institution," et me témoigner sa sympathie. Mais je ne puis m'engager à venir cette année, avant que la date exacte de la réunion soit fixée, étant moi-même assujetti à de nombreux devoirs comme Sénateur et comme Secrétaire Perpétuel de l'Académie des Sciences.

Veuillez, monsieur, agréer l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

M. BERTHELOT.

9, Rue de Grenelle, Paris,
le 20 Mai 1891.

MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE HONORAIRE,

Je vous prie de vouloir bien présenter mes vifs remerciements aux Membres du Conseil de l'Institution Royale pour l'honneur que m'a fait l'assemblée générale en m'élisant membre honoraire.

Je ferai mon possible pour me rendre à Londres afin d'assister aux séances où Lord Rayleigh et le Professeur Dewar rappelleront quelques-uns des admirables travaux de Faraday et d'être personnellement "admis" à l'Institution. Mais cela dépendra naturellement de la date de ces réunions.

Veuillez agréer, je vous prie, Monsieur le Secrétaire Honoraire, l'expression de mes sentiments respectueux et dévoués.

A. CORNU.

Bureau Central Météorologique, 176, Rue de l'Université,
Cabinet du Directeur,
Paris, le 16 Mai 1891.

MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE HONORAIRE,

Je vous prie de transmettre au Conseil de l'Institution Royale l'expression de ma plus vive reconnaissance pour la haute distinction qu'il a bien voulu m'accorder par la nomination de "membre honoraire."

J'attache d'autant plus de prix à cette faveur qu'elle a pour occasion la célébration du centenaire de la naissance de Faraday, l'un des plus grands hommes de bien et l'une des plus pures illustrations du monde scientifique.

Je serais très heureux si mes obligations me permettent de recevoir personnellement le diploma qui m'est destiné et d'entendre célébrer la gloire de Faraday par les savants les plus autorisés.

Veuillez agréer, monsieur le Secrétaire honoraire, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

E. MASCART.

Institut Pasteur, 25, Rue Dutot,
Paris, le 20 Mai 1891.

MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE,

J'ai reçu, avec des sentiments de vive satisfaction, la lettre par laquelle vous m'informiez que, à l'occasion du centenaire de la naissance de Michael Faraday, l'Institution Royale de la Grande Bretagne m'a élu membre honoraire de cette célèbre Institution.

Je suis touché profondément de cette haute marque d'estime donnée à mes travaux et je vous prie d'être auprès des membres de l'Institution l'interprète de mes sentiments de gratitude.

Malheureusement, l'état de ma santé ne me permettra pas de pouvoir assister aux leçons qui seront faites à l'Institution Royale pour honorer la mémoire de l'illustre Faraday, sous la présidence de S.A.R. le Prince de Galles, ni d'avoir l'honneur d'aller en personne recevoir le diplôme qui m'est destiné.

Veuillez recevoir, monsieur le Secrétaire, l'expression de ma haute considération.

L. PASTEUR.

[Translation.]

Heidelberg, May 21, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

You have been so kind as to inform me by a letter of May, 1891, that the Royal Institution of Great Britain has nominated me as honorary member at the last general meeting.

I am exceedingly grateful for such a mark of favour so kind and indulgent towards me. I beg you to thank the Royal Institution heartily for their sign of friendly sympathy. I feel how much I am esteemed by the distinction, especially as I do not conceal from myself how far from the object in view are my scientific efforts to obtain the end before me.

I am very sorry that I must renounce the pleasure of being present at the Faraday festivities, my age not allowing me to undertake a long journey so far away from home.

I beg to assure you of my highest respect, in which I remain, dear sir, your obedient humble servant,

R. BUNSEN.

Charlottenburg, Marchstrasse,
June 4, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to excuse that I shall not be able to come to London for the Centenary of the birth of Michael Faraday, in order to receive there the Diploma of Membership to the Royal Institution in so exceptionally honouring way, as you indicate, namely, by the hands of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. I was obliged to accept an election as honorary president of the Commission of Jurors at the Electric Exhibition at Frankfurt, and the first meeting of this commission for the constitution and organization shall take place in the same time, when I ought to come to London.

Begging that you will be so kind to excuse me also before His Royal Highness,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HERMANN V. HELMHOLTZ.

Berlin, 10, Dorotheen Strasse,
May 24, 1891.

MY DEAR SIR FREDERICK,

When returning home from a short Whitsuntide excursion I found your kind letter conveying the welcome news of my having been elected an Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. I hasten to express my heartfelt thanks for the rare distinction bestowed upon me. The honour of becoming associated with so renowned a corporation, conspicuous at all times, is doubled by the auspicious occasion on which it is conferred.

In Faraday, I admired the incomparable experimental thinker; I loved the noble-minded, kind-hearted man. During the twenty years I have had the good fortune of living in dear old England I did not miss a single one of his lectures. It would be difficult to say how deeply I am indebted to these and to a great many other lectures I attended at the Royal Institution, and often in my own courses when showing a highly instructive experiment, I delight in telling my students where and by whom performed I saw it for the first time.

I am glad to hear that two lectures on Faraday's life work will be delivered by the eminent professors of the Institution in the theatre hallowed by his never-to-be-forgotten addresses. Unfortunately my duties in the University do not permit me to leave Berlin during the months of June and July, so I must forego the pleasure of hearing them. They will, however, most undoubtedly be printed.

I remain, my dear Sir Frederick, with reiterated thanks, yours very sincerely,

A. W. VON HOFMANN.

Tutzing, Bavaria, May 19, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

I have received the announcement of my election as Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Although I feel the great honour of this election, and although I would be very proud to accept the diploma in such a glorious assembly as will be present at the Centenary of the birth of Michael Faraday, I must beg excuse for me. Our University lectures shall be re-opened next week and then be continued until the end of July, and I am bound by my office and business to stay at Berlin during this whole time. So I must beg you, dear sir, to express my hearty thanks to the Members of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and to forward to me that diploma.

Yours very sincerely,

RUD. VIRCHOW, M.D. LL.D., F.R.S.
Professor in the University of Berlin.

12, Ware Street, Cambridge,
Mass., U.S.A.

SIR,

I feel highly honored by my election as an Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and gratefully accept the privileges it implies. It would give me the greatest pleasure to be able to take part in the celebration of the Centenary of the Birth of Michael Faraday, but I am at present in such poor health that an ocean voyage would be impracticable. Another year I earnestly hope I may be able to visit the "old country" once more, and shall look forward with satisfaction to be received as a member where I have often been a guest. Indeed I have very tender associations with the Royal Institution; for it was there, as a young man on my first visit to England, that I made the acquaintance of Faraday through the introduction of a mutual friend. That acquaintance was to me an inspiration, and I look back to it as one of the most important influences in my education. I remember distinctly that after one of his lectures to a juvenile audience, when I could not restrain my enthusiasm, and expressed my admiration at his power of commanding attention, and my surprise at the simplicity of the means employed, the great master replied, "That is the whole secret of interesting these young people. I always use the simplest means, but I never leave a point not illustrated. If I mention the force of gravitation I take up a stone and let it drop." At this distance of time I cannot be sure that I quote his exact language, but the illustration and the lesson I could not forget; and to this lesson more than to any one thing I owe whatever success I have had as a teacher of physical science. You can then well understand how glad I should be to pay honor to the memory of Michael Faraday not only as the consummate investigator, but also as the great teacher and noble man.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOSIAH P. COOKE.

New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.,
May 28, 1891.

SIR,

Your communication announcing the high honor conferred on me by the Royal Institution in electing me Honorary Member on the occasion of the Faraday Centenary was received early this week. It is a special pleasure to have my name associated with those of the Members of the Royal Institution in whose laboratory Faraday, one of the greatest of philosophers, carried on a large part of his work, and to have it thus honored in connection with the Centenary of the birth of the illustrious Faraday.

I regret to have to say that the state of my health will not permit of my visiting London to attend the proposed lectures of Lord Rayleigh and Professor Dewar.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

JAMES D. DANA.

New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.,
May 25, 1891.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your note has been received informing me that I have been elected an Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Please express to the Managers of the Institution my high appreciation of the distinguished honor which has been conferred on me. I regret that my engagements are not likely to permit me to be present at the interesting occasion of the centennial which is to be celebrated.

I remain, Sir, with sincere respect, yours faithfully,

J. WILLARD GIBBS.

Washington, June 1, 1891.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the invitation with which you have honoured me, in the name of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, to be present at the Centenary of the birth of Faraday and receive the Diploma of honorary membership of the Institution.

No ordinary engagements would be allowed to prevent my attendance at a celebration of such interest by an Institution whose name and organization are so intimately associated with the greatest of experimental physicists. But physical disability renders it imprudent to undertake a journey abroad at the present time. I can therefore only assure you of my very high appreciation of the honour done me, and my extreme regret that I cannot be present in person to receive it.

I am, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

SIMON NEWCOMB.

University of Rome, May 22, 1891.

SIR,

In reply to your communication informing me of the honor just conferred on me at the General Meeting of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, I can but express my earnest thanks and assure you of the deep sympathy I feel in all that has been, or may be done, to honor the memory of Michael Faraday.

With regard to my attending the lectures I fear it will be extremely difficult, as although the University courses finish about the middle of June, they are followed immediately by a long series of examinations which carry us into the middle of July. I must reserve, therefore, my acceptance, but it would give me great satisfaction to be present besides procuring me the pleasure of becoming personally acquainted with many colleagues whom I have not the advantage of knowing.

Allow me, meanwhile, to thank the Managers and yourself for the kind intention of communicating to me the date to be fixed upon for the lectures.

I have the honor to be, Sir, yours truly,

STANISLAS CANNIZZARO.

[Translation.]

R. Osservatorio del Collegio Romano,
Rome, May 26, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

I have received your esteemed letter of the present month informing me of the great honour that has been conferred upon me by naming me an honorary member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and inviting me to attend the scientific gathering to celebrate Faraday's Centenary.

I fully appreciate the distinction, and my wish would be to attend the said gathering, but I cannot come to a determination until June, and I must know the exact date of the meeting.

I must in the meanwhile ask you to kindly convey my best wishes for the Institution, and pray accept the respectful regards of your obedient servant

PIETRO TACCHINI.

University, Copenhagen,
May 22, 1891.

SIR,

Having by your letter been informed of my being elected an honorary member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain in occasion of the Centenary of the birth of Michael Faraday, I beg you, Sir, receive my sincere thanks for this acknowledgment of my

labours and the honour thereby shown not only myself, but also my little hardly treated native country.

Of course I would have much gratification in attending on your meeting in London to receive the Diploma personally, but unfortunately my health for the moment is not quite to be relied upon for making the said long journey.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
JULIUS THOMSEN.

Upsala, June 2, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your estimated letter, by which you have announced to me that, in connection with the Centenary of the birth of Michael Faraday, the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London has conferred on me the grand honour to be elected an Honorary Member of the Institution.

Moreover, you have kindly invited me to attend to the lecture, which is to be delivered the 17th June at the very place where the celebrated explorer of physical truths has worked.

Unhappily for me I cannot see any possibility for my going to London this summer, and therefore I allow me to beg you to be my interpreter before the Royal Institution and express my most humble thanks for the great honour the Royal Institution has bestowed on me.

At last I permit me to express my warmest felicitations for the prosperity of the Royal Institution, and hope that the Institution in the future may be able to continue her noble work to support many such heroes of science as the celebrated Michael Faraday, whose epoch-making discoveries, deep thoughts and ingenious presentiments now fructify the scientific labours everywhere and in the greatest manner contribute not only to the successful progress of science, but also to the happiness and welfare of the whole humanity.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
ROB. THALEN,
Prof. at the University in Upsala.

St. Petersburg, May 14/26, 1891.

MOST HONOURED SIR,

In answer to your information of my being elected Member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain in connection with the Centenary of the birth of Faraday, I can only express my heartfelt thanks for the honour of being admitted to the circle of the highly esteemed, universally renowned English men of science. The engagements and duties, which I took on me, make it impossible for me to leave Russia and come personally amongst you at the end of June or in July.

These are the reasons why I must beg you, most honoured Sir, to be so kind to transmit my sincere and profound gratitude to the Members of the Royal Institution, and my welcome to the memory of Michael Faraday as from one who is a devoted admirer of his glorious name.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

D. MENDELEEFF.

Genève, 16 Mai 1891.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la lettre par laquelle vous m'annoncez que l'Institution Royale de Londres a daigné me conférer le titre de membre honoraire et je vous prie de vouloir bien me servir d'interprète auprès de vos savants collègues pour leur exprimer ma reconnaissance pour une aussi honorable distinction.

Mais je regrette que mon âge et ma santé ne me permettent pas d'aller à Londres assister à l'assemblée où doit être célébré le centenaire de l'illustre physicien Michael Faraday.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

CHARLES MARIGNAC,
Professeur honoraire à l'Université de Genève.

Amsterdam, May 16, 1891.

SIR,

I have the honour of accusing the receipt of your missive containing the communication that the Royal Institution of Great Britain has conferred upon me the honorary membership.

Let me express the high satisfaction I feel, that the Institution, which at all times has taken the lead in the domain of science, has done me the honour of associating my name with herself. That this takes place at a moment that you remember your august compatriot, makes it particularly agreeable to me.

It is with sentiments of profound gratitude that I accept the honour, and I take the liberty of asking you to be so kind as to bring my thanks into the Institution.

If my health, which lately has somewhat suffered, permits it, I will be present in London to be admitted to the Institution.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. D. VAN DER WAALS.

Bruxelles, le 15 Juin 1891.

MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE HONORAIRE,

J'ai compté jusqu'au dernier moment de pouvoir me rendre à Londres pour assister à la Séance, Juin 17, de l'Institution Royale de la Grande Bretagne, remercier ses membres de l'honneur qu'ils m'ont fait, et de recevoir des mains de S.A. Royale le Prince de Galles le diplôme de membre honoraire de l'Institution ; mais l'état d'affaiblissement résultant de mon grand âge (78 ans) m'empêche absolument d'entreprendre le voyage. Je suis donc obligé de vous prier d'excuser mon absence, de remercier en mon nom les membres de l'Institution Royale de l'insigne honneur qu'ils m'ont fait et de me faire parvenir par la voie de l'ambassade de Belgique à Londres et au besoin par la poste, le diplôme de membre honoraire.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire honoraire, avec mes plus vifs remerciements, l'hommage de mes sentiments de haute et respectueuse considération.

J. S. STAS.

